BYAAAH!!!

NO WEBSITE
NO MIRC
NO E-MAIL

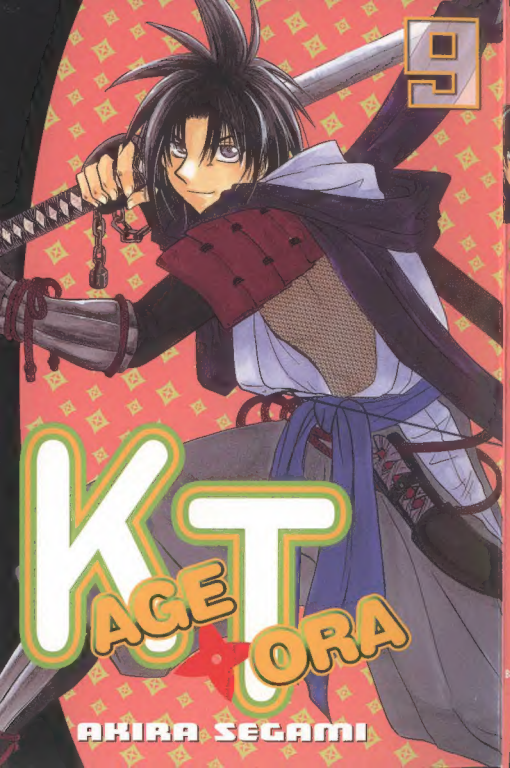
PROJECT: KAGETORA
VOLUME: 9
SCANNED: OCT 08

FOR THE FANS BY A FAN. REMEMBER, IF YOU LIKE IT, GO BUY IT!
PAGES HAVE BEEN CROPPED TO GET RID OF THE GUTTER,
BUT IT'S STILL VISIBLE,
AS I REALLY DON'T CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE QUALITY.
SCANNED) CROPPED) CLEANED) SAVED.
ALSO I'VE DONE A QUICK JOB ON ANY DOUBLE PAGE SPREADS,
JUST TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY ATTEMPT, TOUGH SHIT.
IF YOU WISH TO SHARE THIS, FEEL FREE.
ALL I ASK YOU LEAVE THE PAGES AND TAGS INTACT.
APART FROM THAT I DONT CARE.
ANYHOW ENJOY!

NOTES:

HAPPY TO SAY I'M STILL ALIVE.
JUST BEEN REALLY BUSY FOR THE LAST 8 MONTHS OR SO. SINCE ITS OCTOBER AND 3 YEARS SINCE I STARTED TO SCAN, I THOUGHT I'D START TO GET THIS YEARS XMAS BATCH RELEASE STARTED.
SO FOR ALL THOSE WHO REMEMBER LAST XMAS, I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

RU



デルレイ

KAGETORA 9

AKIRA SEGAMI

Ballantine Books

DEL REY

THREE'S *NOT* THE CHARM!

Yuki is the heir to the Toudou martial arts family, and Kagetora, the ninja assigned to teach and protect Yuki, is in love with her. Unfortunately, his honor forbids him to act on his feelings. Enter Kujou, a big clumsy guy who wants people to stop picking on him. He asks Kagetora to give him some lessons in self-defense, which will be no easy task. But when Kujou meets the beautiful Yuki, things *really* get tricky!

INCLUDES SPECIAL EXTRAS AFTER THE STORY!

BYAAAH SCANS

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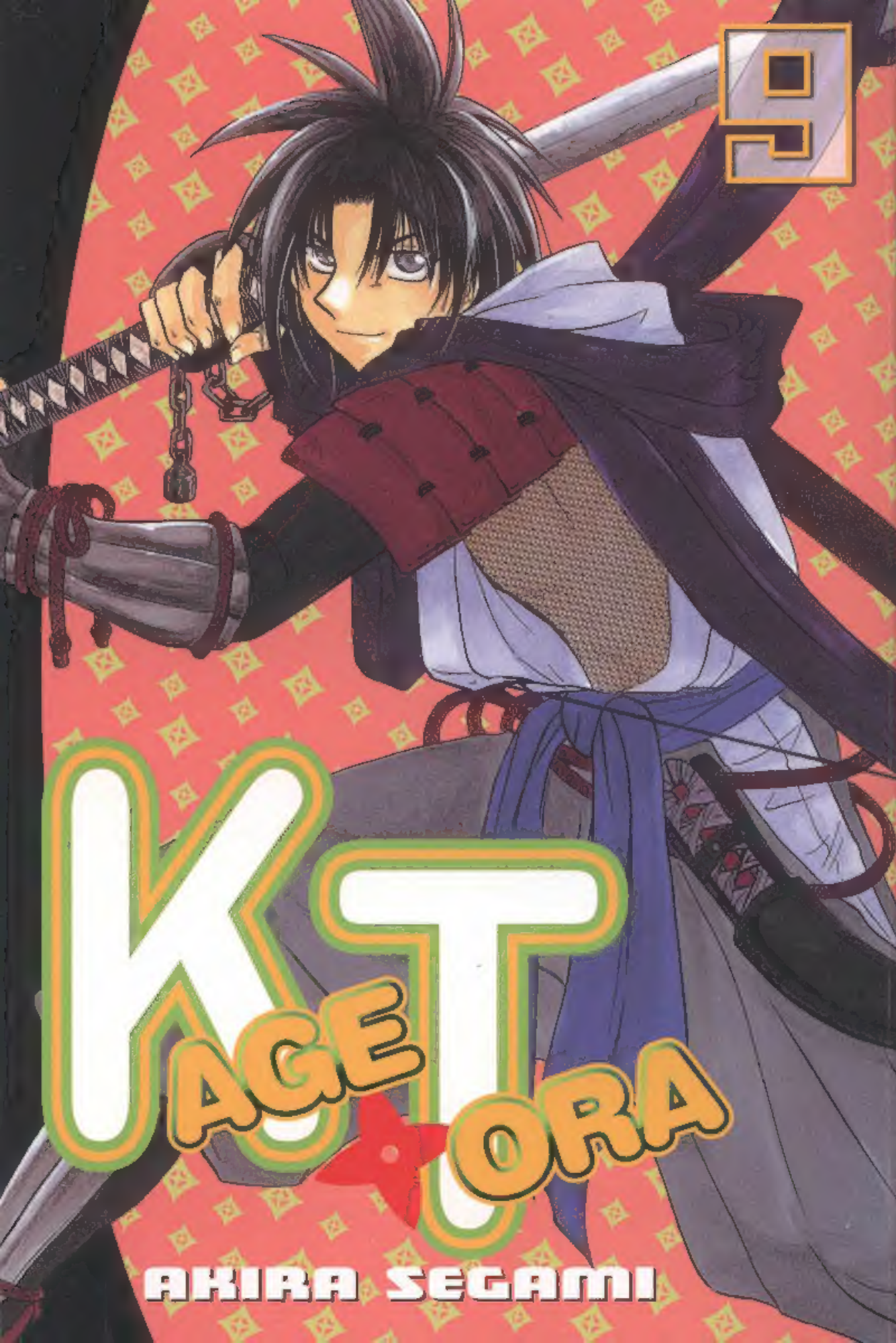
9
KAGETORA
AKIRA SEGAMI

KAGETORA
カゲトラ

Akira Segami

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ADAPTED BY
Nunzio deFilippis & Christina Weir

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KAGETORA

A Note from the Author

Quick as Lightning

A certain teacher at a ninja
dojo also works at a company.
He says it's because "just being
a ninja in the modern era
is probably not a good idea."
I see.
A businessman but also a ninja.
A manga artist but also a ninja.
... That's an exciting phrase,
isn't it? (laugh)

Segami

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

KAGETORA

カゲトラ

9

Akira Segami

KAGETORA
カゲトラ

#38 Aim for the Ninja!

Hoorai style...
Tounn Book
Magazines Books
Asahi Pharmacy
...art of the ninja, Spider Webs!!
Whoa!
Argh!
WHUMP
WHUMP
...That should teach you to never get near Hime again.

How foolish of them.
It's their fault.
Hey.
What's up? Using ninja moves this early in the morning?
Yeah... these guys were trying to pick up Hime...
BLZZ
BLZZ
It's a ninja.
You're not letting them off easy, eh?
I feel a little sorry for them.
...A ninja...
.....
It's over already?
What was that?
DASH
Where's Yuki-chan?
I had her go ahead.
Is it that late already?
Let's go!
Oh shoot! We should get going or we'll be late!

Kagetora.
You didn't get hurt, right?
I'm fine.
I wonder if those people are okay?
Of course not.
I'm glad you're safe, Hime.
Oh.
Well, not exactly beat up...
Hey Kagetora, I heard you beat up some guys this morning.
I wanted to see it too.
Hey, Yuki. Let's go home.
Aki-chan.
Okay.
I held back...so they should be fine.
Phew.
That's good.

Huh?
Him?
Was he one of them?
STARE
No.
I don't recall him...
That seems to be the case...
But he's looking at you.
STARE

You're a...ninja, right?

.....
Did you want something from me?

That's right.

...I want to talk to you for a sec.
TURN

Ka-getora...
Don't worry.
Hime, you can go home with Kiritani.

Huh?
PIT
PAT

THOMP
THOMP
I'm actually more worried about the other guy.
What a reckless guy.
Don't worry.
I wonder if Kagetora will be okay...
.....
STOP
If we're fighting, we can do it here...
How far are you planning on going?
I'm ready if you are.
Hey!
...You're really a ninja, right?
SLUMP
DODGE
!?
What the heck!?
You're persistent!!
Look at my outfit!!
I am Kagetora of Hoorai, and a genuine ninja!

...Huh?
I'm so happy...
GRAB
What kind of joke is this!?
I'm serious!!
Huh!?
Please make me your disciple!!

SLAM!
201
Kujou
TUG
TUG
Please come here.
Hey, wait!
Art of the Ninja
The Truth about Ninjas
Applying Ninja Skills
Ninja Escaping Skills
The Spirit of the Ninja
Disguise
The Courage of the Ninja
Ninja Art
Ninja Art and Ninja
All About the Ninja
SHINOBI
War and Ninja
Iga & Kouga
Secret of the Ninja
Ninja Legends
The Ninja Dictionary
History of the Ninja
THE NINJA
Iga Ninja
TA-DA!
TA-DA
The Good, The Bad, and the Ninja
TA-DA
Ninja Swords
Ninja Star Collection
...This is...
my room.

Is this guy...a ninja otaku?
There are a lot of items...

Issei Kujou. I'm a senior in high school.
Ummm. You...

ZUI!

Why do you want to be a disciple?
Kujou...

Cool...
Cuz...
Being a ninja is...

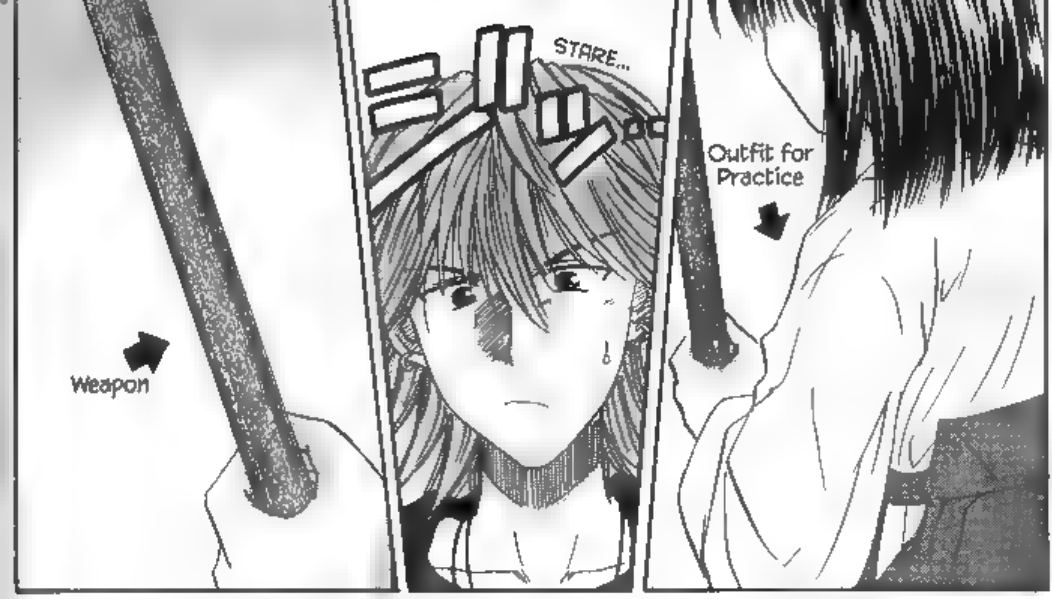
BLUSH

Why...

WOOSH
Sorry!
I don't take disciples. Good-bye!!
Hey!!
I see...
Ha ha...
So he is a ninja otaku...
How weird...
WOOSH
. . . . . .

That was tiring.
Sigh...
Are you okay, Kagetora? Did you end up getting into a fight?
With that person...
No, it's not that.
Although it was a worse situation...
Please make me your disciple!!
All right... Hime, let's start training.
Okay.
.....

Found you...
SLIDE
カラ!!
How did you know I was here...?
I looked it up.
TA-DA
Touun High School Student Roster
... Hello...
It's you again?
It's a bit hard to explain...
!
I told you I don't take disciples!!
Kagetora... what's this about?
?


STARE...
Outfit for Practice
Weapon

WHACK!
She's my master!
Idiot!
Don't point fingers!
You have a disciple!!

Wanting to be a ninja because it's cool...
Besides, your motivation is impure.

.....
I'm here to teach her martial arts.
To call a master a disciple...

BONK!
Wait!
TUG
!?
I don't think you need training.
So go home.
And you're so big, you must be a little strong.
You look it.
TURN
No...
I am fascinated by ninjas, but...
Kujou...
You...
That hurt.
I'm... really weak...
But? What?
I'm saying... I'm not all that.
Um, I...
I don't know what you're talking about.
ANNOYED

I...have upward slanted eyes...and since I'm big, I stand out.
But... you're a delinquent, right?
Huh?
Yeah, and I lost every one of them...
But people still pick fights with you, right?
Looking like that.
So he's a fake?
That's why I'm dressed like this...
I didn't want people to pick fights with me, so I tried to change my appearance to look tough.
Don't be acting tough if you're weak.
Idiot.
Bah. You're just big.
And now they say I'm just all looks with no strength.
I wouldn't have to feel this way...
Dang it...if only I were stronger.

That's when I read a book about ninjas.
I thought they were really awesome!
I want to be as strong as them!
GRIP!
A ninja book...
.....
I see... that's the real reason...
But he doesn't look weak at all...
Although he doesn't look like he's lying either.
Kujou... let's have a practice round.
SST
Huh!?
With me!?
I'll take it easy on you.
But you, put in your best.
Right on!
Don't be concerned with form. Just come at me.
...Hey.
If...I do well, can you make me a disciple?

He still hasn't given up on it.
I guess... I'll think about it.
Start!
Yaaahhh!!
SWING
All right!
Seriously!?
He fell on his own!?
Whaat!?
Oof!
THWUMP!

All right!
...Let's try something else.
I think that's not the issue here...
.....
PANT
PANT
This outfit is pretty heavy...
You need to dodge!
SPLURT
Karate
OOOUCH
Failed to fall correctly
Judo
Kagetora...
Why don't you just train him along with me?
Instead of making him a disciple,
Train him?
I feel that way too...
You are alike in many ways.
I feel like I'm watching myself...
SWOOSH

Hmm...
But...
Besides...
Yeah.
I understand his feeling that he wants to get stronger.
Hime...
...I understand his feelings of having high respect for a ninja too...
Girls won't understand.
.....

I guess it can't be helped...
Gahh
Don't talk like that to Hime!
WHAP!
She's my master.
Back
Since Hime is saying this too...
I won't take you as a disciple,
but I can train you for a short period...
Master!!
You're not my disciple!
Hey you! I'm not going to lose to you!
WHIP!
I'll be the number one disciple.
Oh.
I've already told you!
Don't point fingers!!
Gah
.....

EXCITED
Ninja star training!? Art of the ninja!?
I won't give such training to an amateur.
Especially not to you.
Well then... we'll start training.
Hime...can you show him a dance using the weapon?
As part of your training too...!
I'll use the naginata.
Okay.

Finished!
TAP

It was perfect.
Really? I'm happy.
Was this okay?
Kujou?
GASP
Were you watching carefully?
Kujou!
Leave it to me!
Then try to do as she did.
Here.
Oh.
You're awfully sure of yourself.
Of course!!

THWACK!
...and this!
Let's see.
It was like this...
BONK
Ack!
Or maybe it was like this...
Is he going to be okay?
What a rocky start...
How can he make moves like that?
Kagetora
~~~
He's not a bad guy...
I should praise his effort...
Although he looks like a delinquent.
Hmm...
Like this?
~~~

I'm stuck...
The rope got me...
BONK
Ouch!
We'll end today's training.
Whoa!?
TRIP
It really... is a rocky road...
Here...

Much.
WERRY
ボロ…
Thank you very much.
The road to becoming a ninja is tough.
PANT
PANT
……
It's hard, but good luck, okay?
SMILE
にっ
Kujou-san.

I don't need you to tell me.
I'll pass you soon enough!
...Uh...
I told you, not to...
...talk to Hime that way.
WHACK
WHACK
Ow! Ow!
WHACK
WHACK
.....
GIGGLE
Then I'm returning home.
Okay, good night.
They're more like brothers...
...than master and disciple...
Master, please stop.

スタスタスタスタスタスタ
You can go home now.
I guess I should return to my room.
Disciple and master should be living together.
BLUNTLY
Why are you following me?
I brought my stuff.
NOD
You're going to stay with me!?
Don't thank me just yet!
Thank you, Master
BOW
I told you you're not my disciple!!

LOOKING AROUND
キョロ
And it happens this way...
I see...
Why did Master agree to this...!
This is the room of a ninja, eh?
PUSH
Oh!
A wall scroll!
It's really like a ninja house...
I found a ninja star!
Master!
It was in a hole!!
.....
If you think it's like a ninja house, you should be careful.

Although he has worse reflexes than Hime.
I wonder if there are other items
Wow, there are these too...
Gee...he just doesn't give up easily.
Master~~~
Is that so... It's fun.
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
Haha-haha-haha!! This is fun.
He's drunk...
That's my special sake!!
What's this? It's really good.
HIC
And you drank it!!
THROW
ポイッ
Go chill out for a minute.

Huh?
Kujou-san?
I can't hate him, you know?
Are you taking a walk?
Oh... yeah...
I'd thought you'd be sore tonight.
Please use it, if you'd like.
Here!
Good timing. I wanted to give you something.
Me?
Yeah.

Whoa.
WOBB.E
Oh... thanks.
There's some for you too, so feel free to have some.
And this is for Kagetora.
I made dessert.
Huh...
THUMP

Kujou... san?
Uh... um...
Wow...
She's really fragile...
Oh...
I'm heading back.
WOOSH
Whoa, sorry! I tripped.
Oh... it's okay.
GASP

.....
PIT
PAT
Are you feeling better?
Oh.
You're back.
WHISPER
So cute...
.....
ぽすっ!
THUMP!
You're still drunk!?

...I think I'm in...
... Dang...
Huh?
What?
In what?
.....
Zzzz...
He's sleeping...
He's really... a weird one...
This guy.
Issei Kujou, eh?
I couldn't give them the dessert.
He's bigger than Kagetora.
I was surprised.

Yawn...
What a nice day.
CHIRP CHIRP
TWEET
Training on a day like this feels good.
PAT
PIT
Oh.
I wonder if that person is training today again.
He's probably sore today
BRUSH BRUSH

KAGETORA
カゲトラ
#39 Want to Protect

Where am I?
It's not my room!
がらん
EMPTY
ハッ
WAKE UP
.....
Huh?
I think I became a disciple...
Uh...
THUNK
!?
Master!?
SLIDE

I think so too...
That was close.
DRIP
DRIP
It's dangerous to come in the path of my training.
I attack by reflex...
Kujou...
Please don't!!
Oh!
That's a good idea!
ZUI
Phew. Scared me.
Oh...I thought you ran away.
Did you need something?
You were sleeping soundly a second ago.
That's right.
I'm telling you I don't take disciples...
That's why I became your disciple!!
I want to be strong like you.

This guy, Issei Kujou...
But training in the morning... Wow...
...came over saying he wanted to be strong like a ninja.
Why don't you train him with me?
And Hime suggested that maybe I should train him too.
Although he has a lot of will...he has absolutely no skill.
Ouch!
Master! What are we doing today?
SIGH
Sigh... I'm in a big mess...
WHACK
Ack! Listen to what I'm going to say!
Why!?
SHAKE
Because
SHAKE
SHAKE
Why!?
I'm not training today.
I can't.
Huh!?

But...I don't know what to do.
Don't worry.
He will look after your training.
I need to accompany my master.
Something came up suddenly... so I can't take care of you.
So you'll have to train without me today.
This is Kosuke.
Leave it to me!
KYE!
Just follow Kosuke's orders and train.
Good luck.
A monkey!?
Okay, see you later.
WOOSH
If you don't want to train, you can go home.
Hey!
Master... that only looks like a monkey to me.
He is a monkey.
KYE!

He is a monkey... genuinely a monkey...
Does that mean I'm less than a monkey?
PAT
No prob. I got the training routine from Kagetora.
KYE!
Master...
SHAKE
I can't let that happen!!
Won't take me!!
SHAKE
Monkey! Give me my training routine!!
KYE...
Then I'd rather take orders from a monkey!
That probably means he won't take me as a disciple...
You can go home.
...if I don't listen to the monkey.
Probably...
.....

One day!
KYE!
...Is this for the whole week?
It's all for you.
KYE!
This... isn't master's routine?
TA-DA!
Push-ups 1000 times
Sit-ups 1000 times
Squats 1000 times
50km
Monkey!! We'll start training!
Get ready.
WHIP!
...The way he says it is annoying...
KYE...
All right! There's nothing I can't do if I put my mind to it.
GRIP
I guess... this is the hurdle to become a strong ninja...
Oh?
SLIDE

Oh... yeah...
Are you training too?
We will borrow the hall for a bit.
KYE.
Today I will substitute for Kagetora.
Go ahead. I'm done preparing it.
I'm going into moves now.
BOW
KYE KYE
Down at 30
Sit-ups
.....
I...I can't move...
I'm stuck.
Owww
My forearms are screaming in pain...
Push-ups
You didn't even do 20.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE TREMBLE
Okay! Let's start, monkey!
KYE KYE!

Even Hime can do squats, you know.
KYE...
BLUSH
You... didn't even do one...
Squats
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
.....
KYE!?
Ack! I can't do all of this!
It's too much!
I don't want to become a boxer or anything...
You can't get stronger with sit-ups...
ROLL
ゴロン
PANT...
The basics are important!!
KYE!
Hey! Get back to work!
I can't do it!
Go jog-ging.
KYE KYE KYE!

SWISH!
What are you doing, monkey!?
Don't call me monkey!!
Kosuke is my name.
KYE!
KYE!
WHACK!
Ow!
What a rowdy monkey.
ROLL
Weakling...
SPARK!!
You monkey...
How dare you call me a weak monkey!
KYE! KYE! KYE!
I don't want some weak monkey squealing at me.
HMPH
Anyway, I want to learn from a strong ninja.
!
Ack, shut up...
WOOSH

!?
WHOOPAH!
Kosuke... you are strong...
I never knew
even lost to a monkey
KYE!
TAP
Hoorai style Monkey Punch.
He's strong...
THUMP

Yeah?
Kujou-san, I want to ask a favor.
Can you... train with me?
.....
Lost to a monkey...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
Huh!?
Train with you!?
Oh! But if you don't want to, it's okay.
I'm sure you're busy with your own training.
The only thing I can do when training alone is practice how to dodge moves.
Today it's aikido.
Yeah... today Kagetora and Mom are out.

I know! I'm glad he's here.
.....
It might be a perfect match.
KYE.
Thanks!
Really?
No... I'm not that busy.
.....
I'm telling you, I'm going to pass you quickly!
Hey! You!
...That's true!
You'll probably become stronger than me soon.
I didn't mean to say that...
Dang it...I did it again.
RUFFLE RUFFLE
...Er...

There's no one who's strong from the beginning.
I mean... I'm so weak, so...
What do you mean?
How could you think that way?
...you can become strong easily. I think.
If a big person like you trains hard...
That's why you train, right?
Dang it...
She's really cute...
BA-DUM BA-DUM
SMILE
Right?

Oh... uh... um.
Huh?
What was your name again?
Oh.
I need to train hard too!
Come on! Let's start!
TURN
That's right. I haven't introduced myself yet.
I'm Yuki Toudou.
Yuki...
Toudou...

Then I'll call you Toudou.
Okay.
WHACK
Kosuke... I'm fine. We're the same age.
Use honorifics!!
KYE!
That's good.
How's that, Kosuke?
KYE.
I'll take you down, and you can practice falling properly.
Hmm...
So... what do we do?
Kujou-san...
Um.
FWISH
Okay!
I'm going to go!
Huh?
Can you squat down a bit?
Sorry.
You're too tall...

She's skinny too.
She sure is short.
About 150 cm?*
Okay once again.
STARE
Umm.
Like this?
Yeah. Perfect.

*4'11"

And her shoulders are fragile.

Yah!
SPACED OUT

GRAB
Whoa.
Huh!?
Ow!
Ouch!
THUMP!

Ow...
Kujou-san, you're not supposed to pull me down with you.
So... sorry...
Ouch...

Huh...
Oh!
GASP!
!!
...oh...
Whoa!?
SLIP
THUD
Oh!?
Whoa!
WOOSH
GET UP
COVER

Oh...
Kujou-san...
You're crushing me...
Oops.
I'm in a worse situation...

Oh!
BONK
WOOSH!
Oops!
CLANGLE
CLANGLE
Whoa!?
CLANGLE
Yeah...
Kujou-san, are you okay?
SLAP
I'm fine!
!
Oh! You're hurt.
SST

Boys are strong...
.....
Are you really okay?
...Yeah...
GONK
Huh?
STING
STING
I thought it's because Kagetora's a ninja, but...
...no matter how much it hurt, you don't whine, right?
Both of you.
So I thought it's because boys are generally strong...
I want to be strong like Master too...
Sigh...
You will be, if you train hard.
I wish I were strong like that...

...You train every day?
Huh?
Of course... that's what training is.
I've gotten a little better since I've been training with Kagetora!
GRR!
むん
I'm already bad from the start, so the least I can do is work hard on the basics.
GRIP
Besides, it's rude to Kagetora if I don't work hard.
Push-ups and sit-ups too?
Yeah, I do those too.
I don't want to become a boxer or anything...
You can't get stronger with sit-ups...
I can't do it!!
KYE.
.Very different from you-know-who.

Kujou-san, you're done?
...Yeah.
I'll make dinner before Master comes home.
Disciple's duty.
Toudou.
.....
Where's the nearest supermarket?
TURN
I don't know this area, so...
Sorry.
.....
GIGGLE...
I want to buy stuff, so let's go together.

This is better meat!!
No!
MORITA MARKET
How about this radish?
This one!
Oh, and don't throw away the leaves.
You put it in miso soup.
How funny...
You don't look like the type to cook.
And you're good at shopping too.
GIGGLE GIGGLE
Really?
Well, I've been living alone for a long time.
I see.

You know...
For a guy to cook and shop like a woman...
Is it weird?
For me to cook?
Weird?
Like that.
I don't think so!
A guy who can cook is cool.

?
PIT PAT PIT
Next is the fish department!
Yeah.
We bought a lot.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Hey, cutie.
Yeah, we know some cool places.
ZWISH
Wanna hang out with us?
Huh...
Huh?
But she's with a guy.
What a hassle.
Hey, that girl's cute.
My type.
It doesn't matter, there's two of us.
We can take him.

Oh, you know what?
We don't need you.
What's with you two?
ZWISH
Gah.
THUD!
CLANG
KICK
And there you go!
Good-bye.
Hahaha.
Kujou-san!

COUGH
You're disappointed in him, right?
Come on, let's go.
Kujou-san...
Dude, you're weak.
One punch and we're done.
And you're so big too.
Yeah, he doesn't match you.
Please let me go!
Just ignore that weakling.
Toudou...
...destroy him more, eh?
Heh heh heh
I guess we have to...
Well, well.
Are you okay!?
Oh?
WOOSH

WOOSH
Whoa!?
A sword!?
Who are you...
Huh...?
I'll destroy you two.
SHING
That's...
That's what you get for picking on Hime.
I won't let you do it twice. Don't forget that!
COUGH
...my line!
Gah!
KA-POW
POW!

Kagetora!
DASH
Master...
No, I'm fine.
Why are you here?
Hime! Are you hurt!?
DAAASH
Eek!
Oh, I see.
So I came to pick you up.
When I got home, Kosuke told me you went shopping...
PHEW...
I'm so glad...
I'm glad you came.

GRIP
STILL...
...Uh...
Kujou.
Can you get up?
Yeah...
Kujou.
.....
PAT
Luckily, you are blessed with that body.
Work hard.

Kosuke... where's Kujou?
Huh?

998...
999...
1000!

Wearing his outfit...
KYE
He went to go train.

Hm..
I guess he has more guts than I thought...

I will get strong...
If I continue training... I can become strong.

Done with 1000 sit-ups...
Pant...
Heave...
Pant.

I'm glad you came...
I'm so glad...
To feel that pathetic again...
I never want it to happen again.
That horrible feeling...
I can't protect the girl I like.
Next time...
...I want to protect her...

I'm glad you came...
I'm so glad.
Next time...
...I want to protect her...
Work hard.
So I'm going to get strong!!
...to feel that way again.
I never want...
KAGETORA

KAGETORA
カゲトラ

#40 Secret Crush

Yaaahhh!
!!
SHWAP!
CRASH
Ouch!
Done?
Yeah...
WAKE UP
...right!

PANG
PANG
Yaahhhh!!
...Hm.
Take that!
But...
He's really into it.
I don't know why.
I'm telling you to think before you act.
How many times do I have to tell you?
You just keep charging blindly.
THUMP
WHAP!
Ow.

His body is getting stronger, but...
...he just doesn't have the sense to fight.
Hm.
Usually I'd take him to Hoorai Village...
...and put him in the training fields.
Ow.
But I can't take strangers there.
It'd be nice if there was a mountain nearby to train in...
HMMM
うーむ。
Hime.
I think we have property on the mountainside.
Why don't we use our other house?

Grandma says she used it for training.
There's a training hall too.
I see... that would be nice.
I think it'll be a good change of pace too.
Training elsewhere.
LAN'S TURN
They have hot springs too. ♡
That house.
Hot springs!?
Wow.
Oh...
Okay...
Thanks.

I'll go too!
SWISH
KYE!
There's something different about the way Kujou acts toward Hime.
He's not as rude anymore.
I guess that's a good thing.
I've become the monkey's disciple!?
That's fine with me.
I need to check on my disciple.
KYE.
Not the monkey, right!?
Master will, right?
KYE KYE!
Kujou! I'll train you really hard there.
All right!
.....
Yeah.
Good luck.
SMILE

The training hall's in the back.
It's nice in the mountains.

That's good, but...

Wow...
A garden...

FILING IN
FILING IN
Right.
We need relaxation.
Well.
We heard there are hot springs.
So we tagged along.
I don't want to leave Yuki with a bunch of guys.
We're bodyguards.
...Why are you all here too?
No thank you.
What!?
I'll also train you guys.
TURN
Fine.
It's okay, we won't bother you.
We're here to train.
What!? You can't.
Huh?
Why?
Can I participate too?
Kagetora!

WHISPER WHISPER
We just wanted the hot springs...
Eek...
But it's okay to put us in danger?
Geez.
Why... because I can't put you in danger.
~~~~~er.
POUT
I don't mind if Kiritani joins me.
We'll leave the guys.
But...
We just came for the hot springs, remember?
You don't have to go to any trouble.
I'm sure you're stronger than the guys here.
So you won't be in danger.
Weak...?
Weak little me...
I see.
You mean you're okay with putting me in danger, eh?
Huh...
~~~~~

DOWNHEARTED
Gah.
I am indeed jealous...
Ha ha ha
Unfortunately, I'm going to be in the hot springs with Yuki. ♡
SHOO SHOO
Grr...
So get going and leave.
You guys get ready too.
Seri-ously!?
We're doing it?
Hm. Okay.
Master! Let's start training!
STARE

Arg. I'm already hating this.
Come on, hurry.
Then Hime, I'll see you later.
Oh...
GLANCE
Eek
.....
Okay, we should go to the springs!
PUSH PUSH
Oh... okay.
Huh? Oh... nothing.
Aki-chan? What's wrong?
...I see.

Whew.
This feels good.
Sigh...

No... I'm not sad.
Why the long face?
PAT
!
Are you depressed because Kagetora didn't take you training?
...Yeah...
Er...
GLURG
Hm?
Then how come you keep sighing?

Why?
Kagetora said so too, but he doesn't want to put you in danger.
It means it's a tough training for a girl.
But he said you could do it...
Which means he doesn't think of me as a girl...
Besides.
Huh?
SPLASH!
A... Aki-chan!?

Well... Kagetora's not the only one concerned with you...
Compare it to my arm.
See?
TAP!
You have such thin arms. Kagetora is worried.
I wonder how far they went to train?
Those guys.
Nothing.
SPLASH...
CONFUSED
Huh?
It still might be hard for him...
Keeping up with Kagetora...
Kujou-san... hmm...
ちゃぷ
SPLASH
They won't be able to stand Kagetora's training.
But how about the other guy, Kujou?

Kagetora, eh?
And it's Kagetora who's teaching him.
He's trying real hard...I think he'll be really strong.
Still, eh?
So he still has a chance?
Yeah. I think so.
Since it's Kagetora.
Then you'll get stronger too.
Yeah!
I think so too!

I wonder what training they're doing...
I wonder too.
You'll need to really work hard.
Kujou...
She completely trusts him.
But the basic is the spirit and body.
Ninjas need to train their spirit, skills, and body...
Now.
It's cooooo-lddd.
WHOOO
Aaarrr-gghh.
BROOOAAAARRR
So we'll start with waterfall training.
It'll strengthen your mind and body.
Huh?
!! Kagetora!
In this situation!?
Eeek
And you try to concentrate your mind...

I guess it was too early for him...
I thought I was going to die...
PANT
PANT
Are you okay?
Oh!!
FLOAT
Kujou-kun is floating!
Lost to the water pressure
It's not that steep.
Isn't this dangerous?
I'll be here for emergencies.
You climb up this cliff.
What!? Seriously!?
TA DA
It's simple strength training.
Okay... then let's move on.
So you guys should be okay.
Ninjas would do it at age 5.
It is...
GRIP
It seems like ninja training!!
Finally!
It's not that steep...
Oh! It's true.

Kujou-kun!?
GGH
...Clone...
I'm glad I was prepared...
He can't do this either...
DANGLE
This should be easy to say the least.
Okay... next.
Start!
WOOOOOSH
Then you walk upstream against the flow.
It trains your legs and trunk.
Then you get into the river.
It's pretty heavy
Like this?
Put some weights on.
Ninjas use logs.

Kujou-kun was washed away!!
WOOOOOOOSH
Oh!
That was fast.
BLEH!
They should be fine... probably.
He's a ninja too.
RROOARRR
KYYEEEE...
Will they be okay!?
THROW
Kosuke!!
Go get him!!
KYE!?
He is getting stronger little by little...
Hmm.
We didn't think he was this bad...
It's a skill to be this bad.
I've heard rumors but he's worse than I imagined.
Geez.
I guess we should do regular training...

Oh?
You guys returned.
And?
What's with all of this?

Training with Kagetora... it seems fun.
Then I'll be your next trainee.
GRIN
I was training all of them, but
they ran out of energy.
It's tough.
I give up..

PANG
Yaah!
PANG
PWAPANG!

SWING
Whew!

I didn't think you could dodge that.
Dang.

You come like that, eh?
You're pretty strong.

Aki-chan's strong.
They look like they're having fun...
That's amazing.

PANG PANG
AMAZED

I guess she could've gone training with us.
Yeah...

I haven't had training this fun...
...in a long time.
Haha.
STING...
WHISPER
...isn't fun for him, I bet.
His training with me...
Huh...
!?
WHAT?

It's training to get strong, right?
If it's you, you can be strong like that one day!
That's not true!
WADDA WADDA
But I'm weak...so I can't entertain him...
I'm weaker!
Yeah...
BA-DUM
Thanks!
That's true. You're working hard.
I'll work hard too!

If I'm strong, I can train with Kagetora.
Uh... yeah...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
Okay! I'll start with what I can do now!
I should make dinner.
Kujou-san, please help me!
STAND UP!
FLINCH
Does she...
.....
Toudou...

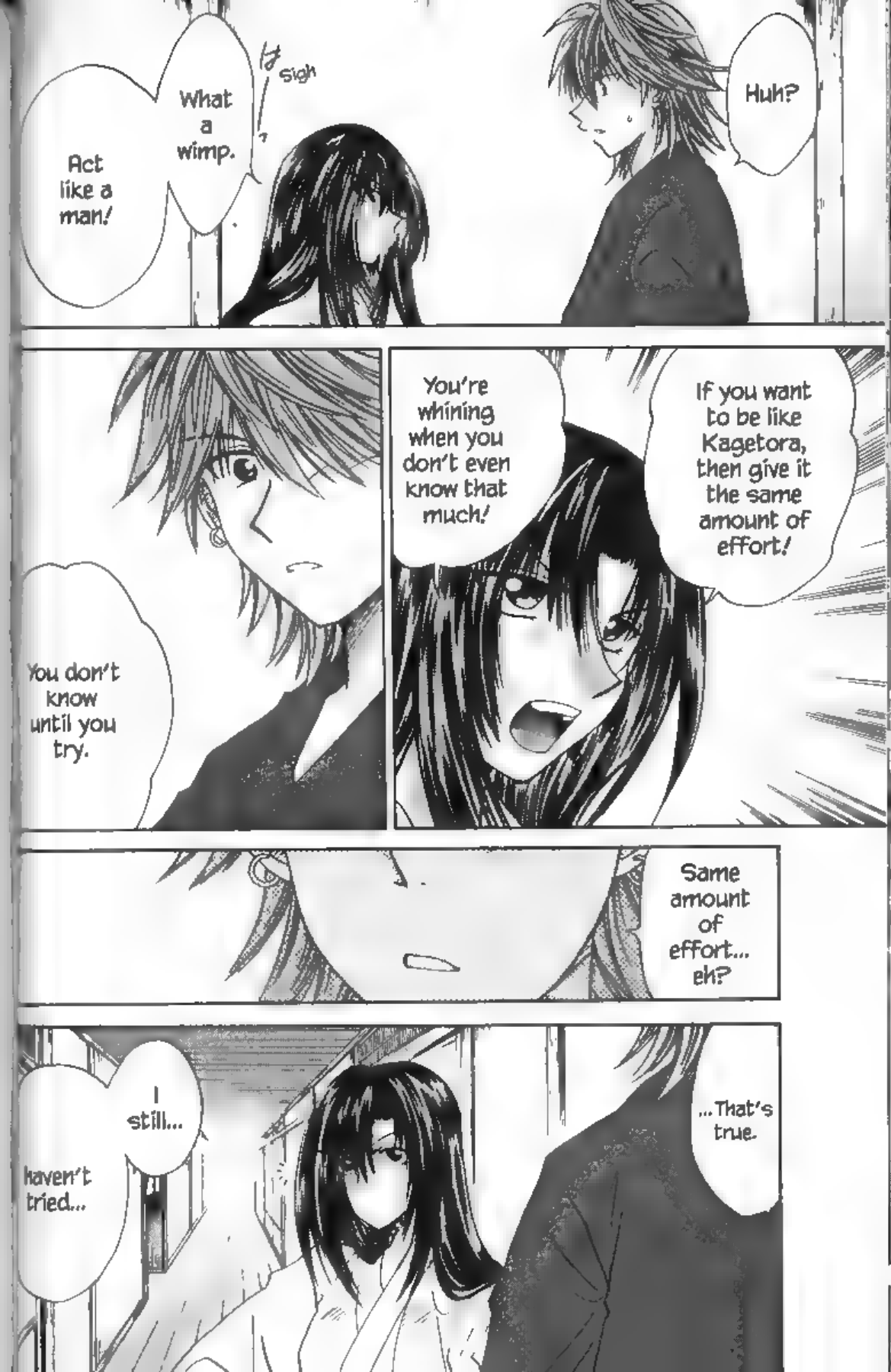
Let's go!
Kujou-san.
I'm sorry for the trouble.
Okay.
Aki-chan, Kagetora! I'm going to go make dinner.
SQUEEZE
.....
What should we make?
...Um...

Kujou-san, should I peel this next?
Yeah, thanks.
This is dessert.
SHAVE SHAVE
This feels like...
we're newlyweds...
Hey! Let me see it.
Are you okay!?
Yeah... I just cut it a little.
SWIPE
Ow...!

CLUNK
The first aid kit...
CLUNK
Oh! There it is.
TUG
Huh...
SPLASH
Does it hurt?
No...
This should be good!
I'll finish up, so you should rest.
We're almost done anyway.
Oh.
Thank you...

GIGGLE GIGGLE
It's not a big deal... but you make it a big deal.
What!? Did I say something funny?
No, sorry... That's not it.
!?
.....
...Hee hee.
You're just like Kagetora...
...likes Master...
I knew it. Toudou...
Oh.
Kagetora is really good at these.
It's because I fall a lot, so...

Oh, okay.
I'm going to tell everyone.
Toudou...
That dinner's ready
You're done training?
Huh?
CREAK CREAK
Even after all that...he doesn't quit.
Kagetora is still training on his own.
I am.
But?
I see... you've already given up.
I have to be as strong as Master...
...or she won't even look my way. But I can't...
I want to be strong like Master but...
He really is amazing.


Huh?
sigh
What a wimp.
Act like a man!
You're whining when you don't even know that much!
If you want to be like Kagetora, then give it the same amount of effort!
You don't know until you try.
Same amount of effort... eh?
...That's true.
I still...
haven't tried...

BOW
SST
RUFFLE
Well, he sure can *look* manly.
...I see.
DASH

He should always look like that.
CHING
CHING
He is amazing...
But...

I don't care how tough it is.
Please... train me.
Huh?
ZWISH
Master!!
Kujou...
...be stronger than you, Master!
I want to...
That's my disciple!!
Good will!
KYE KYE!

Stronger than me...
That's a good goal.
Okay!
Then let's start right away!
Yeah!

KAGETORA

KAGETORA
カゲトラ
#41 Stolen Love

SQUEEZE
キュッ
SQUEEZE
キュッ
I wonder if they are still training.
LICK
This should be enough.
Okay.
Once more, please!

DASH
Okay, go ahead.
GRAB
THUD!
Ow!
SWISH!

Hm...you're much better than when you first started...
Owww
WAKE UP
Really!?
...However...
THUD!
...you lose concentrati
TWIST...
Ow ow ow ow ow ow!!
I was worried when we first started...
But he has more fighting spirit now.
Ouccchhh.

I wonder what happened...
...He clearly changed after that...
.....
I want to be...
...stronger than you!!
Kagetora, Kujou-san.
I brought you some food.
Hime.
Thank you.
!
Kagetora!! You have to stop! Stop!
Oh.
I forgot.
WERK
ぐったり

Here! You should rest.
Oh... thanks.
Are you okay!? Kujou.
I thought I was going to die...
I understand how they feel...
Probably...
...They ran away.
They said they were going hiking.
Hime... where are Ono and the others?
I need to work hard.
Hee hee.
Aki-chan said she'll come later to train.
Oh. I forgot.
Yeah!
Hime, would you like to join too?
Train...

I knew it...When Toudou is with Master...
...she acts completely different...
.....
I wonder... if Master knows how Toudou feels...
Then I'll come back later.
STARE
.....
Good luck to you two!
Thanks.
His face.
He also likes...

Kujou?
.....
Okay, we should get back to training.
.....
What's wrong? Are you tired already?
TAP
Conserving your energy is a skill, too.
Master...
Can I ask you something?
What?
How do you feel about Toudou?

Do... you like her?
How...?
What...
Don't say foolish things!
What's important are your feelings, right?
It has nothing to do with your position.
I'm not in a position to feel anything.
I am Hime's "oyakume." Hime is my master, I'm a ninja...

...Then...
What if Toudou says that she likes you?
Kujou!!
FLINC
I don't have time to talk about "what-ifs."
Enough already.
I don't need to hear your nonsense.

You're not answering me.
...Hime and I are master and servant. That's it.
Isn't that enough of an answer?
Besides, it has nothing to do with you.
End of story.
I don't understand the "oyakume" or anything...
...but it means there's no problem if she's not my master, right?
It means...
...I can fall in love with her.

TURN
Kujou?
Ku...

That was a nice declaration of war.
I'm surprised.
!
ZWISH
Whoa.
Yeah, sort of.
He's easy to figure out.
That Kujou had feelings for Hime...
Kiritani... did you know?
it has nothing to do with you, right?
But,
You said so yourself.
...or if Yuki dates anyone...
Even if Kujou likes Yuki...
Nothing to do with me?

Er...
You and Yuki are master and servant.
That means you have no right to say anything.
That's... true...
.....
I don't know about your situation, but...
...don't use *that* as your excuse to run away.
What do you mean?
Nothing.
I just thought I'd tell you.
At least Kujou is honest with his feelings.
He's better than you.

SLIDE!
See ya.
I don't think it'll be fun with you now.
I'll pass on today's training.
Everyone's saying what they want...
Gee...
Kujou...
No right... eh?

It means there's no problem if she's not my master, right?
It means...
I can fall in love with her.
...I want to be like you...
...who doesn't have to worry about rights...
GLANCE
!

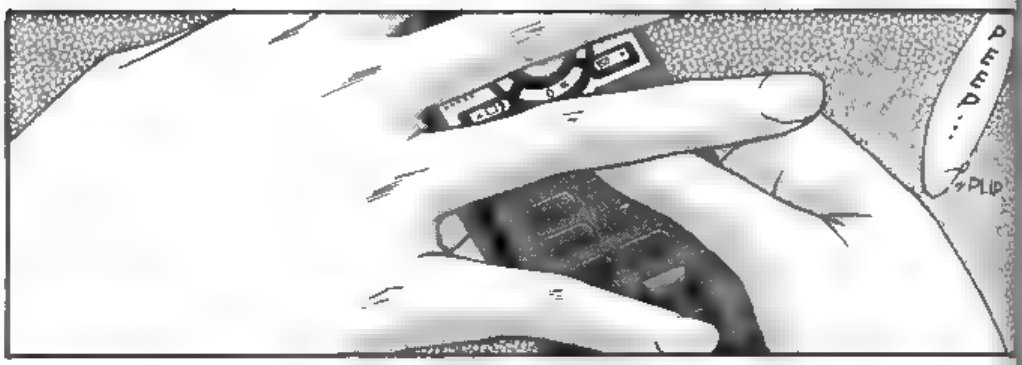
Huh? You're done with training already?
Yeah.
Sort of...
Toudou!
.....
Kujou-san?
.....
udou!
Wait here. I'll bring the first aid kit...
TURN
It's not...
Um...
Oh! Did you hurt yourself in training!?
You seem down.
Huh? No...

Can you... come with me?
Huh?
Where to?
Where shall we go first?
Kujou-san.
There are a lot of stores here.
Wow.

I'm sorry.
To make you come.
Huh?
It's okay.
Um...it doesn't really matter...
I was surprised because...
...it was so out of the blue.
But... I'm glad she came...
Oh!
GRIP
Fresh air was just an excuse.
.....
It happens when you train for a long time.
But I can understand you want fresh air.

Look! They have a festival.
Maybe an Autumn Festival.
Let's go!
Takoyaki
We should be careful not to get lost.
Phew.
Yeah... oh!
You're too fast.
Sorry!
There's a bunch of stores.
Booths, I should say.
"Kujou-san"

Oh... okay.
This is fine. ♪
SQUEEZE
Mother duck
She's like a little duckling.
Holding on to him.
I know.
Look, what a cute couple.
Ha ha ha
Oh, since there's a festival...
...we should call Kagetora and the others too!
PEEP PEEP
GIGGLE GIGGLE
They called me a duckling.
I'm not that small.
How embarrassing...
A couple...

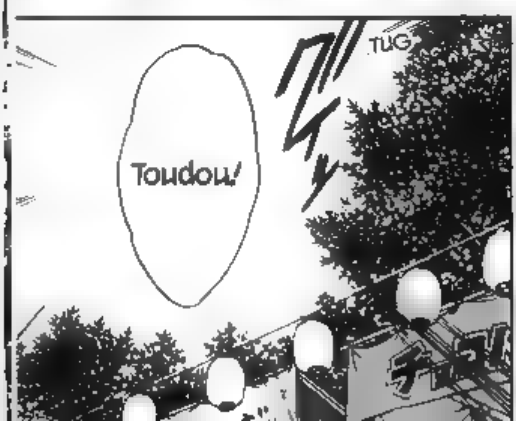

...Dammit
PLIP

Kujou-san?
Oh...

Then we'll enjoy it ourselves.
And we'll buy something for them.

Oh.
Yeah.
I guess so.

Cuz... it's crowded
I don't think they'll be able to find us...


TUG
Toudou!

This way is better to not get lost.
Huh...
Okay.
.....
Let's play.
!
Oh! A shooting game.
Go!
BANG
Which one do you want?
Umm.
That one!

Dang it...
Are you okay? It's red.
WHACK
!?
CLINK
Oh, you're good!
Yeah!
GLANCE
I wonder... how Toudou feels.
Although I'm happy with this.
It's like we're on a date...
It's sweet
It's good ♡

!!
She's smiling...
GRIP
Kujou-san... it hurts.
WHAP!
Oh, sorry!
I didn't mean to...

Shoot. I let go.
Oh!
It's past four already!
We should go home.
Kagetora's going to worry.
You...
...always bring him up...
Huh?
What?
No... it's nothing.
Then we should go.
Okay.

.....
We're home.
...Oh.
It's you guys.
...Are you that upset?
No...
By the way, Ono.
WHISPER
Although you ditched training...
Urg
Don't be so mean.
We brought home all these mushrooms.
Don't be so cold.
We'll make mushroom soup!!
Most of those are poisonous.
SHOCK

What do you mean?
...That's okay with you?
Oh well. We'll just cook the ones we can eat.
Where's Kujou?
...He went somewhere with Hime.
Kiritani told me.
No...I just thought it was odd.
But they should come home soon.
Look. It's going to rain.
WOOOSH
DRIP
DRIP
.....

Don't catch a cold.
I'm fine.
I hope we get home soon.
Shoot.
It started to rain.
I didn't think it'd rain.
I dragged you out here...
I'm sorry.
It's okay! I had a great time.
WOOOOOSH
It's not your fault.
It's the weather.
Yeah, but...

Even with me... you had fun?
?
Yeah.
But...
...it wasn't with Master...
You ask strange things.
I really had fun.
She had fun even with me...
Okay...
Good.
WOOOOOSH
Oh...
It's raining hard now.
Giggle
Convinced now?

Cover yourself with this.
It'll keep you a little dry.
FLAP
Huh!?
But you'll get wet.
It's okay.
But...
It's fine!
I'm a guy and you're a girl!
Giggle
...Then I'll borrow it.

Thanks.
RUSTLE
...Er...

Huh...
Kujou-san...?
Um...
What's wrong?

キュウ
!?
Kujou-san!?
SHADOW
oudou...

I like you...

Huh...
WOOOOSH
I like...
...you, Toudou...

KAGETORA
カゲトラ
#42 A Fist and Tears

I like...
...you, Toudou.

I...
...I'm surprised...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
So...
.....
Er...
I worried you...
Sorry...
SST

I need to cool down a bit...
Can you go ahead?
NOD
.....
SPLASH SPLASH
WOOOSH
Shoot...

I didn't mean to worry her...
I did it...
But I couldn't hold it in...
I have no chances of winning...
WOOOOSH
It's raining hard.

Why did the monkey make it?
Kosuke made mushroom soup for us. ♪
When they come back, let's eat.
KYE!
It's good.
Is it going to be edible?
Yuki-chan and Kujou aren't back yet?
I'm sure they'll be home soon.
I see...
And Kagetora is missing too.
He wasn't at the hall either
I wonder where he went..
Yuki-chan and Kujou are gone.
There was no one else who could cook.
He's such an idiot...
He's probably being a watchdog somewhere.
WOOOOSH

That means...
I can fall in love with her.
I don't understand your situation...
But don't use it as an excuse.
Master... how do you feel about Toudou?
.....
If I can say it...
...it'll be easier...
!
SPLASH
SPLASH
GASP

You're dripping wet.
Are you okay!?
It started raining...
Hime!
Kagetora...
SPLASH
I wore this above my head.
See?
Oh.
But I'm fine.
Hime.
Where's Kujou?

Huh...
BLUSH
Hime...?
Oh... Kujou-san said he's coming later.
He should be here soon.
Let's go inside.
You'll get wet too.
.....

Yuki!?
You're drenched!
Go take a shower. You'll catch a cold!
Okay...
Oh. Right.
THUMP
ぼすん
Did you see Kagetora?
I think he was waiting for you...
Come on, go sit in the bath.
Yeah...
.....
.....
...Yuki?

Where's Kujou?
So it did rain on them.
She was wet so she's taking a bath. She said to eat without her.
I thought Yuki-chan came home.
Oh?
It's hot.
DRIP
DRIP
Behind you.
When did you...
Whoa!?
Okay... you're going to eat, right?
Yeah.
Circumstances.
Why didn't you come back together?
You're drenched.
Toudou.
...came back, right?

KYE KYE KYE!
Enjoy to the fullest
Kosuke special, mushroom soup
KYE KYE!
.....
.....
Wow, it looks good.
You're amazing.
There's a bunch of mushrooms in here.
I've never seen them before.
KYE ♪
That is Lepista nuda.
Hey, Kosuke. What's this mushroom?
KYE?
It might be nothing though...
Oh! This is good.
MUNCH
WHISPER
Yeah... a little.
WHISPER
WHISPER
...It's a little tense, isn't it?

Are you sure?
I don't think I want any more.
But if you cook it, it's okay
KYE.
Poison!?
BLEH!
If you eat it raw, it's poisonous.
I don't know why, but I'm feeling really good right now.
Yeah?
You're courageous, Ono...
I'm scared.
A poisonous mushroom can't be this good!
The soup is good.
It's cool. It's good.
Don't be so depressed while you eat.
Aren't you two a little gloomy?
Huh?
This one's really good!
Here, here
Shoot
He is courageous!
Whoa.
Wow, he went to go talk to them!!

"Laughing mushroom." If you eat it, you get excited and laugh a lot...
Laughing mushroom.
Oh well, it doesn't matter!
Ha ha ha
Mushrooms
That's not good.
I didn't take it out.
SHOOT
Right, Kujou?
Ono... that's a laughing mushroom...
Huh? What's that?
It's like Russian roulette dinner.
Shoot, this makes the soup fishy!!
I have nothing.
Don't you have anything to say to me?
Master...

He's completely distracted.
How can he say it's nothing...
Sheesh.
They're both idiots...
SPLASH..
ザパァ

.....
パシャ
SPLASH
I like...
...you, Toudou.

Ha ha ha ha
Then Ikoma can eat them!
Eat up!!
Stop it!
Ono, don't eat any more laughing mushrooms!
These guys are just hopeless
.....

Well...
whatever happens will happen...
Kam ou! Stop him!
ha ha ha ha

Master...
PIT PAT
...It's good that you have strong will.
Then I guess we should start training.
You're early.
Yeah... a little.
You're not interested
In what happened yesterday?
...Is that so.
Then I'll tell you.
TURN
I don't know what...
...you're talking about.

I...
...told her.
Toudou.
I said I like her.
She didn't say anything,
but if she feels the same way we'll go out.

I can go out... with her?
I see...
.....
I told you already.
Hime and I are master and servant.
It's up to Hime what she wants to do.
GRAB!

Then why are you acting like that!?
What...
I can tell you're bothered.
But you try to act like it's othing...

THUD
Huh...
Let me go...
FWOOSH
Dang it...
Don't ignore this, *Kagetora!!*
If you don't want to train, get out.
You're in the way.
You're just running away!
Is your position that important?

You're the one who doesn't know anything.
You don't know how much she...
Kujou.
Enough.
What do you know about me?
You're just like Kagetora...
...isn't fun for him, I bet.
His training with me...
Kagetora is...

...Kujou?
... Er...
You don't know...
my feelings either...
SMACK
Damn it!
WOOSH
I can't make her smile like that!

CRASH
Gah!
THUD
!!
If you want to take your anger out on someone, choose someone else
TUG
Avoiding my question...
Yeah you are.
I'm not running away...
Kagetora.
I told you not to run away.
COUGH

You say you're "oyakume"?
That's just an excuse for you!
...and hiding your true feelings!
I see... that's it.
Ow...
Kujou.
SLUG!

So what if it is?
You also...
...don't understand my feelings...
ujou...
But you should at least understand Toudou's feelings...
His Feelings, eh?
Finally showing your true feelings...eh, Master?
Heh.
I don't under-stand.

Kagetora! Even if you're training, this is too much.
Are you okay?
Oh. Toudou...
Kujou-san!?
Kage-tora!?
SST
.....
Gee...
Master is strong...
I should treat your injuries...
If...
...I got strong...like Master...
I thought you'd like me...

Kujou-san...
Well.
I tried my best, despite myself!
Ouch...
So don't worry about it.
Huh...
I knew it all along.
That you have...
.....
...someone in your heart already.
I'm sorry...

I...

I'm sorry...
.....
Yeah...
Right?
I told you not to worry.
I feel better for telling you.
You should take care of it.
I slugged him in the face.
TAP!
I think you should go to Master's.
Sigh...
I'm a little tired.
I'm going to rest here a bit.

...Okay... I'll go.
Yeah.
PAT
PIT
So I'm completely dumped...
.....
Oh well.
I knew it, but...
...it still hurts.
I guess you're not a wimp after all.
Eh?
.....
...Kiritani...
You did well, Kujou.
CREAK

I'll let you go today.
...But I'll be a wimp if I cry.
You're a cool person, Kiritani...
Blah.
I wonder... if they will work out...
It's...
...all up to Kagetora now...
Who knows?
...But...

You look serious..
What's up Kagetora?
KYE?
.....
Is your position that important?
Don't ignore this, Kagetora!!
You're just running away!
...my position is important.
I'm not running away because...
No...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
What's important to me is...
That's just an excuse!
Hiding your feelings!
You say you're "oyakume"?

To be continued in Volume 2

Bonus Page

This is Segami. Volume 9 is finally out. That happened fast. . Anyway, I'm working hard on volume 10, so please stay with me . Since the readers are the reason a manga can be released. (laugh)

About Ninjas part 9

I'm still attending that "art of the ninja" class. There are times I cannot make it because of work, but I guess even if I'm absent a lot, they won't kick me out. (laugh)

I'm attending with fellow manga artist Masanari Yuzuka, but I'm not as good as he is.

I hope to at least not get in the way when we train together.

About Traveling

I've been going to research stuff. Usually it is a two-day, one-night trip and very rushed, but even still I have a lot of fun when I go to places I've never been. ♪

I guess I've been having good luck with hot springs. There are many times when there are hot springs available at the inns I stay in. It's very relaxing. Hot springs are nice.

About Weapons

I I'm buying more ♁ When I see some, I just impulse buy them. It's the same gift shop I wrote about in volume 8. (laugh)

I got the okay from the store manager, so I will introduce the store here ↓

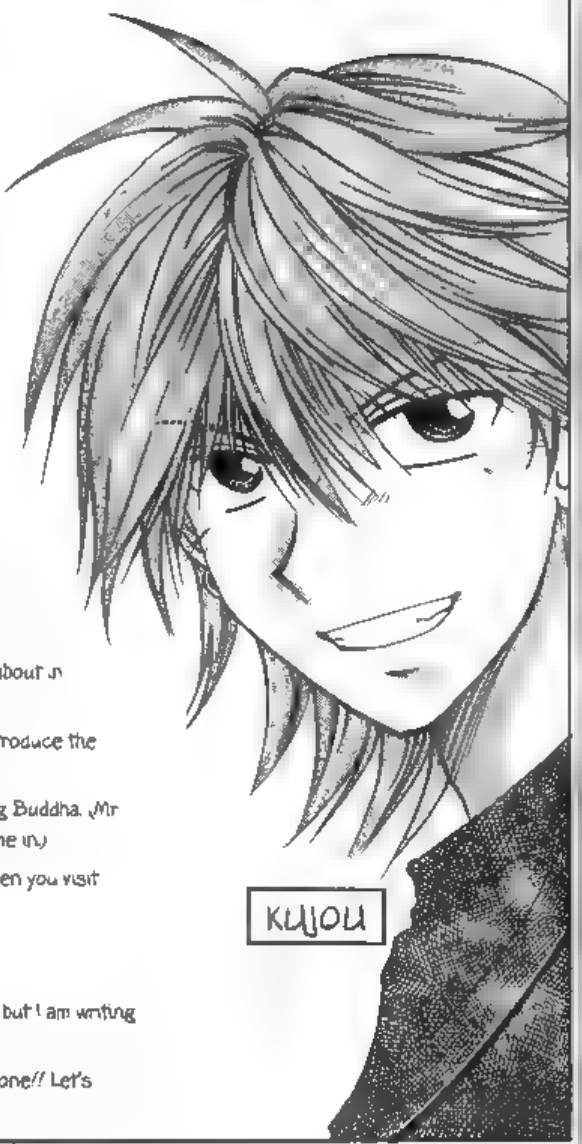
It's Sankaido in Kamakura. It's located near the big Buddha. (Mr. Store Manager, thank you for always welcoming me in.)

There are normal souvenirs, so please stop by when you visit Kamakura. It's very fun. (laugh)

Thank you

Thank you for all your letters! I know it's way late, but I am writing back. So please look out for it ♁

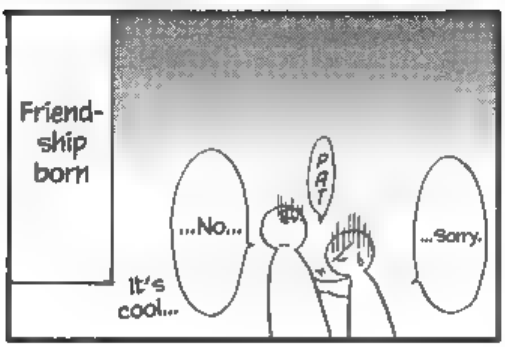
Really, it's what keeps me going! Thank you everyone!! Let's work hard together!!



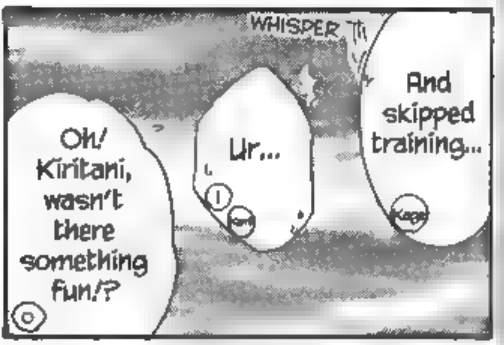
Shooting in the Foot Part 2

Shooting in the Foot Part 1

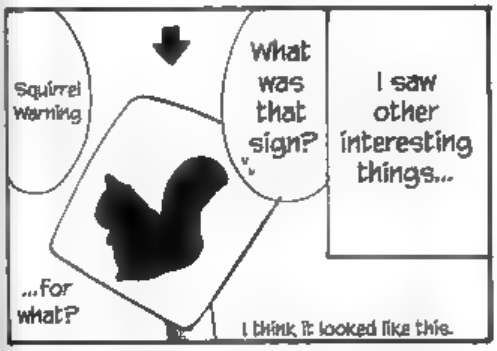
Pity

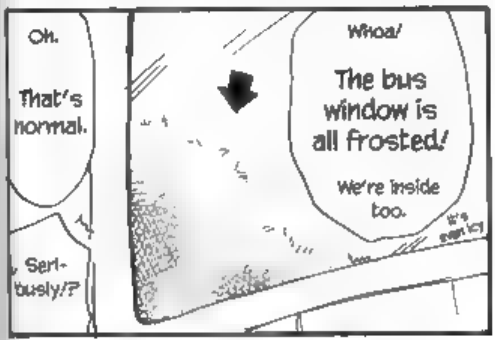


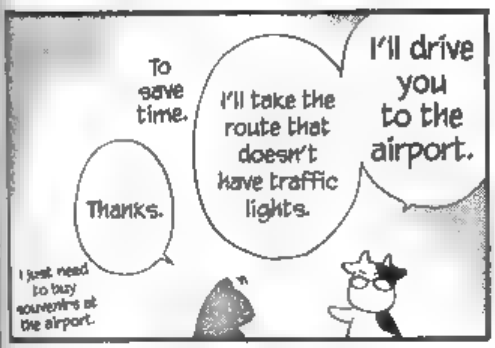
Shooting in the Foot Part 3



Mysterious Land

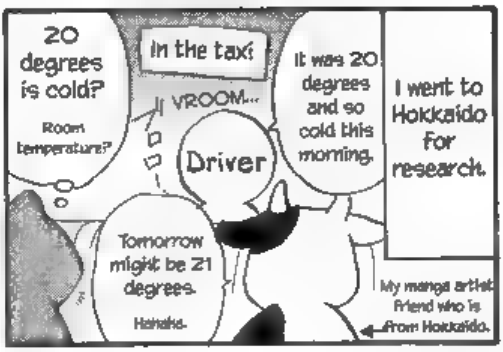


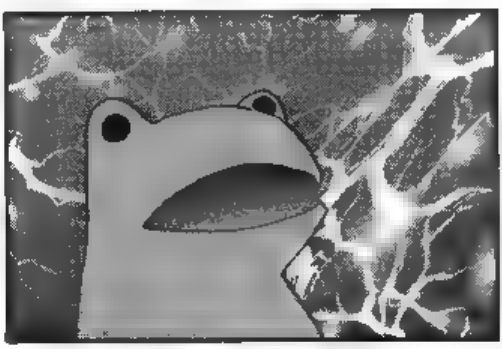


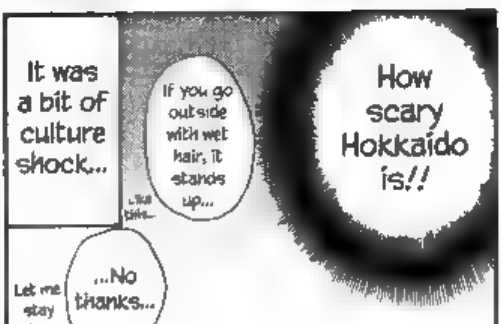

To save time.
I'll take the route that doesn't have traffic lights.
I'll drive you to the airport.
Thanks.
I just need to buy souvenirs at the airport.

Hokkaido is amazing...
No way... We drove for 30 minutes...
We're here.
There really weren't any traffic lights...
Sound effect
Going to eat it at home

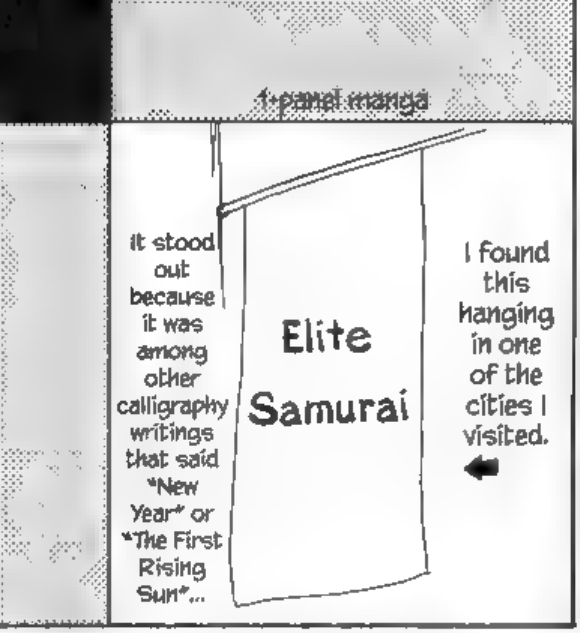
I Would Like to Hibernate


20 degrees is cold?
Room temperature?
In the taxi
VROOM...
Driver
Tomorrow might be 21 degrees.
Hanako.
It was 20 degrees and so cold this morning.
I went to Hokkaido for research.
My manga artist friend who is from Hokkaido.




It was a bit of culture shock...
If you go outside with wet hair, it stands up...
like this.
How scary Hokkaido is!!
Let me stay indoors.
...No thanks...

1-panel manga


Elite
Samurai
I found this hanging in one of the cities I visited.
It stood out because it was among other calligraphy writings that said "New Year" or "The First Rising Sun"...

By the way, on the back of this was the name "Xxxx Sugimura." I actually like the sense of humor of this kid. (laugh) In fact, I love it...

Special Thanks!

Assistants:	Tanaka-kun Oshima-chan
Editor:	Mr. Morita
Comics Editor:	Houdo-san
Helpers:	Hiromu Arakawa-san, Nono-san, Aiya Bell-san, Yoko Ayase-san

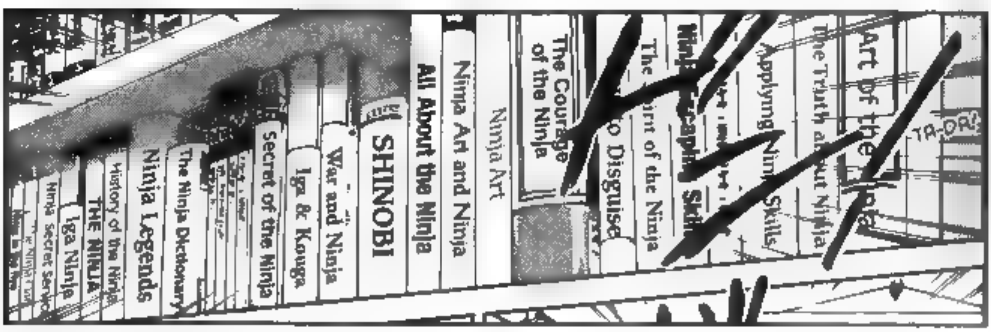
And all my readers ♡

About the Author

Akira Segami's first manga was published by Shogakukan in 1996. He went on to do a few other small projects, including two short stories entitled "Kagetora" in 2001 and 2002. The character proved to be popular with fans, so Segami began his first ongoing series, Kagetora, with Kodansha in 2003. The series continues to run today.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.



***Shinobi*, page 11**

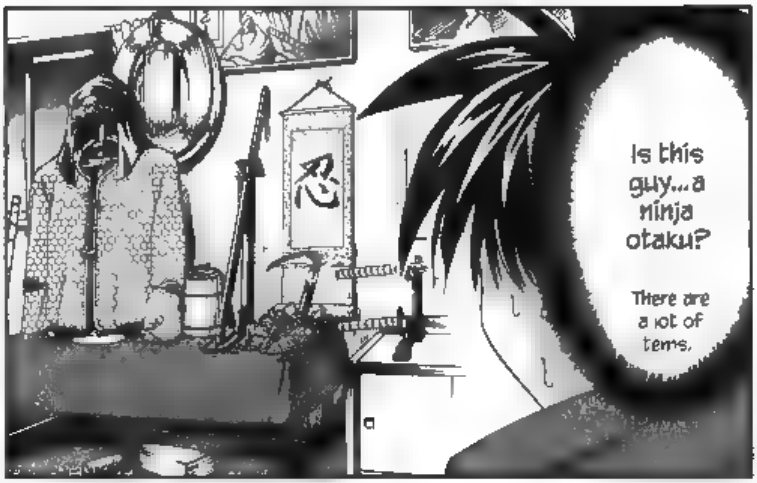
Shinobi is another way of saying ninja. The kanji for "ninja" is a combination of the kanji for "shinobi" and "person." The term "shinobi" means "secret" or "hide."

Iga, page 11

Iga is a place in the Mie prefecture, in the Western region of Japan. The Iga-style ninja is one of the two famous ninja styles in Japan. (The other famous style is known as Kouga). In modern Japan, Iga has become a place for ninja tourism where tourists can enjoy ninja shows and the museum.

Kouga, page 11

Kouga is a ninja style in Japan. Kouga ninjas were especially known for their skills in medicine use. As part of a historic site, the Kouga Ninja Mansion is still left intact, with trap holes, turning doors, and underground tunnels as well as tools from the old days.



***Otaku*, page 12**

Otaku is a Japanese word for "hard-core fan." Usually in the United States, anime fans refer to themselves as an *otaku,* but the word can be applied to science fiction fans, video game fans, idol fans, etc. Originating from the word *"otaku"* meaning "you" in second person, it is said to have first been used by an essayist named Akio Nakamori around 1980.

Student Roster, page 15

Schools in Japan have the student roster available to anyone who would like to see it. The roster has the house address, phone number, grade, and class of every student.

Folded Paper Fan, page 16

Kagetora is using a folded paper fan to hit Kujou. The fan is called *harisen* in Japanese, and is used commonly in manga and anime. It comes from an idea used in Japanese comedy where the comedians hit each other with a folded up *harisen*. It is good for a show because it makes a loud noise with little damage to the victim.

***Naginata*, page 24**

A *naginata* is a long-handled sword. It looks like a spear with a short sword at the tip of it. In modern Japan, it is usually a martial art for women.

The only thing I can do when training alone is practice how to dodge moves.
Today it's aikido.
Yeah... today Kagetora and Mom are out.

Aikido, page 51

Aikido is a Japanese martial art in which artists use the attacker's force and redirect it against them.

Morita, page 65
If you look at the bonus pages at the end of the Kagetora volumes, you'll notice that Morita is the name of the author's editor.

***Takoyaki*, page 131**
Takoyaki is a grilled ball with a piece of octopus in the middle. It is made on a grill shaped in half circles. You whisk some flour, water, and egg together and pour it onto the hot grill. You then put a piece of octopus and some cut-up green onion in the middle and grill the mixture for a bit. The hardest part is flipping over the pancake to make a ball. You use a *takoyaki* pick, which is similar to an ice pick but thinner.

Big Buddha, page 185
Kamakura has a Big Buddha that is one of the famous Big Buddhas in Japan. The other most famous Big Buddha is in Nara prefecture.

Hiromu Arakawa, page 189
Hiromu Arakawa is the manga artist of the famed *Fullmetal Alchemist*. Since Arakawa's hometown is in Hokkaido and the family operates a farm, Arakawa is depicted as a cow.

Calligraphy, page 189
It's part of New Year's tradition to write something in calligraphy on New Year's Day. To match the holiday, people would usually write something like "New Year." Most people don't do it at home anymore, but kids tend to do it at school or community gatherings.

THREE'S *NOT* THE CHARM!

Yuki is the heir to the Toudou martial arts family, and Kagetora, the ninja assigned to teach and protect Yuki, is in love with her. Unfortunately, his honor forbids him to act on his feelings. Enter Kujou, a big clumsy guy who wants people to stop picking on him. He asks Kagetora to give him some lessons in self-defense, which will be no easy task. But when Kujou meets the beautiful Yuki, things *really* get tricky!

INCLUDES SPECIAL EXTRAS AFTER THE STORY!

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